

portions of the project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be in the EA. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, the EA may be published and mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, affected landowners, newspapers, libraries, and the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. A comment period will be allotted for review if the EA is published. We will consider all comments on the EA before we make our recommendations to the Commission.

To ensure your comments are considered, please carefully follow the instructions in the public participation section beginning on page 4.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have already identified several issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Algonquin. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis.

- The project would cross 31 wetlands and 25 streams.
- The project would be within 50 feet of 178 residences.
- The project may cross historic or prehistoric archeological sites.

Also, we have made a preliminary decision to not address the impacts of the nonjurisdictional facilities. Approval of the Sithe Energy Fore River Station is currently pending before the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board. We will identify the location, and its permit approval and/or construction status in the EA.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. By becoming a commentor, your concerns will be addressed in the EA and considered by the Commission. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative routes), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please carefully follow these instructions to ensure that your comments are received in time and properly recorded:

- Send two copies of your letter to: David P. Boergers, Secretary Federal

Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426;

- Label one copy of the comments for the attention of the Environmental Review and Compliance Branch II, PR-11.2;

- Reference Docket No. CP00-34-000; and

- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before February 7, 2000.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding known as an "intervenor." Intervenor play a more formal role in the process. Among other things, intervenors have the right to receive copies of case-related Commission documents and filings by other intervenors. Likewise, each intervenor must provide 14 copies of its filings to the Secretary of the Commission and must send a copy of its filings to all other parties on the Commission's service list for this proceeding. If you want to become an intervenor you must file a motion to intervene according to Rule 214 of the commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214) (see appendix 3). Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision.

The date for filing timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has passed. Therefore, parties now seeking to file late interventions must show good cause, as required by section 385.214(b)(3), why this time limitation should be waived. Environmental issues have been viewed as good cause for late intervention.

You do not need intervenor status to have your environmental comments considered. Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Paul McKee of the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (202) 208-1088 or on the FERC website (www.ferc.fed.us) using the "RIMS" link to information in this docket number. Click on the "RIMS" link, select "Docket #" from the RIMS Menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to RIMS, the RIMS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2222.

Similarly, the "CIPS" link on the FERC Internet website provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings. From the FERC Internet website, click on the "CIPS" link, select "Docket #" from the CIPS menu, and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to CIPS, the

CIPS helpline can be reached at (202) 208-2474.

Linmwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-785 Filed 1-12-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6522-8]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; State Water Quality Program Management Gap Analysis

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this document announces that EPA is planning to submit the following proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): Information Collection Request for the State Water Quality Program Management Gap Analysis. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before March 13, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Public Comments. All public comments shall be submitted to: State Water Quality Program Management Gap Analysis ICR Comment Clerk (Mail Code 4201), Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Wastewater Management, Resource Management and Evaluation Staff, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. Commentors who want EPA to acknowledge receipt of their comments should enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Comments may also be submitted electronically to: crow.carol@epa.gov.

Interested persons may obtain a copy of the ICR and supporting analysis without charge by contacting the individual listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carol Crow, Telephone: (202) 260-6742, Facsimile Number: (202) 260-1156, E-mail: crow.carol@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and forms of encryption. Electronic comments must be identified

by the use of the words "State Water Quality Program Management Gap Analysis ICR Comments." No confidential business information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail. Comments and data will also be accepted on disks in Corel WordPerfect 8 format or ASCII file format. Electronic comments on this notice may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

The record for this proposed ICR has been established by the Office of Wastewater Management, Resource Management and Evaluation Staff and includes supporting documentation as well as printed, paper versions of electronic comments. It does not include any information claimed as CBI. The record is available for inspection from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays, at the Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Wastewater Management, Resource Management and Evaluation Staff, Northeast Mall Room 2310, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. For access to the docket materials, please call (202)-260-6742 to schedule an appointment.

Affected Entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are State governments. Major respondents are State governments.

Title: State Water Quality Program Management Gap Analysis.

Abstract: EPA, in partnership with States, is conducting the State Water Quality Management Gap Analysis to help enumerate current and future funding needs and to help identify innovative strategies for reducing resource gaps. To develop preliminary information in a short time frame, the Gap Analysis was divided into two phases. Phase I consisted of the development of a preliminary estimate of the national resource gap faced by water quality management programs to provide a general idea of the magnitude of the resource gap based on initial estimates provided by members of a State/EPA work group.

Phase II of the Gap Analysis involves developing a detailed, activity-based workload model to provide a common framework for States and EPA to estimate the resource needs necessary to assess specific water quality concerns. To complete the model and develop a realistic estimate, EPA's Office of Wastewater Management needs data on the resources needed from each individual State for water quality management activities.

This is a one time collection effort by the Office of Wastewater Management and responses to this ICR are voluntary. The collection is necessary to develop a

detailed activity-based workload model that will provide an estimate of the resource gap facing water quality management programs. EPA will use the collected information to estimate resource needs for water quality management activities.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR part 9 and 48 CFR Chapter 15.

EPA would like to solicit comments to:

(i) evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) evaluate the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(iii) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(iv) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 180.5 hours per State respondent. Approximately 20 States are expected to respond to this information collection request, for a total estimated annual burden of 3,602.5 hours and a total estimated cost of \$144,100. The total estimated burden for this information collection activity, including the Agency, is 4,141 hours nationally; the estimated total cost is \$165,117. There are no record keeping requirements.

Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of

information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

Dated: January 6, 2000.

Michael B. Cook,

Director, Office of Wastewater Management.

[FR Doc. 00-848 Filed 1-12-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPTS-00274A; FRL-6487-8]

Voluntary Children's Health Chemical Testing Program; Cancellation of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; cancellation of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The public meeting on the Voluntary Children's Health Chemical Testing Program scheduled for January 19-20, 2000, is canceled. This meeting was announced in the **Federal Register** of August 26, 1999 (64 FR 46673) (FRL-6089-1), and was intended to be the third public meeting in a Stakeholder Involvement Process to develop a voluntary program to test commercial chemicals to which children have a high likelihood of exposure. On a future date, EPA will announce a new date for the third stakeholder meeting and will describe how that meeting will be conducted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information contact: Joseph S. Carra, Deputy Director, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (7401), Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Bldg., 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone numbers: (202) 554-1404 and TDD: (202) 260-1730; e-mail address: TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov.

For technical information contact: Ward Penberthy, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Chemical Control Division (7405), Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Bldg., 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (202) 260-0508; e-mail address: chem.rtk@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Does this Notice Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general. This action may, however, be of interest to those persons who are or may be required to conduct testing of chemical substances under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA),